PART H
AIR CONTAMINANTS

WAC

296-62-075 Air contaminants.

(1) An employee's exposure to any substance listed in Table 1 of WAC 296-62-07515 shall be limited in accordance with the requirements of WAC 296-62-07501 through 296-62-07513.

(2) The following definitions are applicable to the limits in Table 1.

(a) **Time weighted average (TWA)** is the employee's average airborne exposure to any 8-hour work shift of a 40-hour work week which shall not be exceeded.

(b) **Short term exposure limit (STEL)** is the employee's 15-minute time weighted average exposure which shall not be exceeded at any time during a work day unless another time limit is specified in a parenthetical notation below the limit. If another time period is specified, the time weighted average exposure over that time period shall not be exceeded at any time during the working day.

(c) **Ceiling** is the employee's exposure which shall not be exceeded during any part of the work day. If instantaneous monitoring is not feasible, then the ceiling shall be assessed as a 15-minute time weighted average exposure which shall not be exceeded at any time over a working day.

(d) The terms **"substance," "air contaminant," and "material"** are equivalent in meaning for WAC 296-62-075 through 296-62-07515.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040, [49.17.]050 and [49.17.]060. 97-19-014, 296-62-075, filed 9/5/97, effective 11/5/97. Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 89-15-002 (Order 89-06), 296-62-075, filed 7/6/89, effective 8/7/89; Order 73-3, 296-62-075, filed 5/7/73.]

WAC 296-62-07501 Airborne contaminants.

(1) Permissible exposure limits (PELs) refer to airborne concentrations of substances without regard to the use of respiratory protection and represent conditions under which it is believed that nearly all workers may be repeatedly exposed day after day without adverse effect. Because of wide variation in individual susceptibility, however, a small percentage of workers may experience discomfort from some substances at concentrations at or below the permissible limit, a smaller percentage may be affected more seriously by aggravation of a preexisting condition or by development of an occupational illness.

(2) Permissible exposure limits refer to time-weighted concentrations for an 8-hour workday within a 40-hour workweek which shall not be exceeded.

(a) The cumulative time-weighted average exposure for an 8-hour work shift shall be computed as follows:

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$$E = \frac{C_aT_a + C_bT_b + \ldots + C_nT_n}{8}$$

where:

E is the equivalent exposure for the working shift.

C is the concentration during any period of time T where the concentration remains constant.

T is the duration in hours of the exposure at the concentration C.

The value of E shall not exceed the eight-hour time-weighted average (TWA) limit in Table 1 (see WAC 296-62-07515), for the material involved.

(b) To illustrate the formula, assume that substance A has an 8-hour time-weighted average limit of 100 ppm as noted in Table 1 of WAC 296-62-07515. Assume that an employee is subject to the following exposure:

Two hours exposure at 150 ppm

Two hours exposure at 75 ppm

Four hours exposure at 50 ppm

Substituting this information in the formula, we have

$(2x150+2x75+4x50) \div 8 = 81.25$ p/m

Since 81.25 ppm is less than 100 ppm, the 8-hour time-weighted average limit, the exposure is acceptable.

(3) **Methods of compliance:**

(a) To achieve compliance with these standards, the employer shall determine and implement feasible administrative or engineering controls.

(b) When administrative or engineering controls are not feasible to achieve full compliance, they shall nonetheless be used to reduce exposures to the lowest levels achievable by these controls.

(c) Any control equipment or technical measure utilized for the purpose of complying with WAC 296-62-07501(3) must be approved for each particular use by a competent industrial hygienist or other technically qualified person. Whenever respirators are used their use shall comply with WAC 296-62-071 through 296-62-07121.

(d) Upon request, the employer shall prepare and submit a written compliance plan to the director. This plan must include a description of the manner in which compliance will be achieved with respect to cited violations of WAC 296-62-07501(3), and shall include proposed abatement methods, anticipated completion dates, and provision for progress reports to be sent to the department.

(4) An employee's exposure to any substance in Table 1 (see WAC 296-62-07515) which does not have a ceiling or a specified short-term exposure limit (STEL) shall not exceed the generic STEL which is computed by multiplying the applicable eight-hour time-weighted average (TWA) for the substance by the appropriate multiplier listed below.

WAC 296-62-07501 (Cont.)

Eight-hour TWA	Multiplier
PEL > 0-1	(ppm or mg/M^3) X 3
PEL > 1-10	(ppm or mg/M^3) X 2
PEL > 10-100	(ppm or mg/M^3) X 1.5
PEL > 100-1000	(ppm or mg/M^3) X 1.25
PEL > 1000	(ppm or mg/M^3) X 1

(5) Permissible limits are based on the best available information from industrial experience, from experimental human and animal studies, and, when possible, from a combination of the three. The basis on which the values are established may differ from substance to substance; protection against impairment of health may be a guiding factor for some, whereas reasonable freedom from irritation, narcosis, nuisance or other forms of stress may form the basis for others.

(6) The limits based on physical irritation shall be considered no less binding than those based on physical impairment. There is increasing evidence that physical irritation may initiate, promote or accelerate physical impairment through interaction with other chemical or biologic agents.

(7) In spite of the fact that serious injury is not believed likely as a result of exposure to the permissible limit concentrations, the best practice is to maintain concentrations of all atmospheric contaminants as low as is practical.

(8) These limits are intended for use in the practice of industrial hygiene and should be interpreted and applied only by a technically qualified person.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040, [49.17.]050 and [49.17.]060. 97-19-014, 296-62-07501, filed 9/5/97, effective 11/5/97. Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 89-15-002 (Order 89-06), 296-62-07501, filed 7/6/89, effective 8/7/89. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040 and 49.17.050. 82-03-023 (Order 82-1), 296-62-07501, filed 1/15/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040, 49.17.050 and 49.17.240. 81-16-015 (Order 81-20), 296-62-07501, filed 7/27/81; 80-11-010 (Order 80-14), 296-62-07501, filed 8/8/80; Order 73-3, 296-62-07501, filed 5/7/73.]

WAC 296-62-07503 Ceiling vs. time-weighted average limits.

(1) Although the time-weighted average concentration provides the most satisfactory, practical way of monitoring airborne agents for compliance with the limits, there are certain substances for which it is inappropriate. In the latter group are substances which are predominantly fast acting and whose permissible limit is based on this particular response. Substances with this type of response are controlled by a ceiling limit that shall not be exceeded during any part of the work day. It is implicit in these definitions that the manner of sampling to determine compliance with the limits for each group must differ; a single brief sample, that is applicable to a ceiling limit, is not appropriate to the time-weighted limit; here, a sufficient number of samples are needed to determine a time-weighted average concentration throughout a complete cycle of operations or throughout the work shift.

(2) Whereas the ceiling limit places a definite boundary which concentrations shall not be permitted to exceed, the time-weighted average limit requires an explicit limit to the excursions that are permissible above the listed values. The magnitude of these excursions are limited by an appropriate factor shown in WAC 296-62-07501(4).

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 89-15-002 (Order 89-06), 296-62-07503, filed 7/6/89, effective 8/7/89. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040, 49.17.050 and 49.17.240. 80-11-010 (Order 80-14), 296-62-07503, filed 8/8/80; Order 73-3, 296-62-07503, filed 5/7/73.]

WAC 296-62-07505 "Skin" notation. Listed substances marked with an "X" in the "skin" column of Table 1 refer to the potential contribution to the overall exposure by the cutaneous route including mucous membranes and eye, either by airborne, or more particularly, by direct contact with the substance. Vehicles can alter skin absorption. Measures for the prevention of cutaneous absorption so that the permissible limit is not invalidated shall be taken. Such measures may include the use of gloves, coveralls, goggles, or other appropriate personal protective equipment, engineering controls or other work practices.
[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 89-15-002 (Order 89-06), 296-62-07505, filed 7/6/89, effective 8/7/89. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040, 49.17.050 and 49.17.240. 80-11-010 (Order 80-14), 296-62-07505, filed 8/8/80; Order 73-3, 296-62-07505, filed 5/7/73.]

WAC 296-62-07507 Mixtures. Special consideration shall be given to assessing the health hazards associated with exposure to mixtures of two or more substances which have similar health effects.

(1) In case of a mixture of air-contaminants compute the equivalent exposure as follows:

$$E_m = \frac{C_1}{L_1} + \frac{C_2}{L_2} + \ldots + \frac{C_n}{L_n}$$

Where:

E_m is the equivalent exposure for the mixture.

C is the concentration of a particular contaminant.

L is the exposure limit for that contaminant, from Table 1 or 2.

The value of E_m shall not exceed unity (1).

(2) To illustrate the formula consider the following exposures:

Substance	Actual concentration of 8-hour exposure (ppm)	8-hr TWA PEL (ppm)
B	500	1000
C	45	200
D	40	200

Substituting in the formula, we have:
$E_m = 500 \div 1{,}000 + 45 \div 200 + 4 \div 200$
$E_m = 0.500 + 0.225 + 0.200$
$E_m = 0.925$

Since E_m is less than unity (1), the exposure combination is within acceptable limits.
[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 90-03-029 (Order 89-20), 296-62-07507, filed 1/11/90, effective 2/26/90; 89-15-002 (Order 89-06), 296-62-07507, filed 7/6/89, effective 8/7/89. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040, 49.17.050 and 49.17.240. 80-11-010 (Order 80-14), 296-62-07507, filed 8/8/80; Order 73-3, 296-62-07507, filed 5/7/73.]

WAC 296-62-07509 Nuisance dusts.

(1) In contrast to fibrogenic dusts which cause scar tissue to be formed in lungs when inhaled in excessive amounts, so-called "nuisance" dusts have a long history of little adverse effect on lungs and do not produce significant organic disease or toxic effect when exposures are kept under reasonable control. The nuisance dusts have also been called (biologically) "inert" dusts, but the latter term is inappropriate to the extent that there is no dust which does not evoke some cellular response in the lung when inhaled in sufficient amount. However, the lung-tissue reaction caused by inhalation of nuisance dusts has the following characteristics:

(a) The architecture of the air spaces remains intact,

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(b) Collagen (scar tissue) is not formed to a significant extent,

(c) The tissue reaction is potentially reversible.

(2) Excessive concentrations of nuisance dusts in the workroom air may seriously reduce visibility, may cause unpleasant deposits in the eyes, ears and nasal passages, or cause injury to the skin or mucous membranes by chemical or mechanical action per se or by the rigorous skin cleansing procedures necessary for their removal.

(3) A permissible limit of 10 milligrams per cubic meter, of total dust < 1% SiO2, or 5.0 mg/m3, respirable fraction, time weighted average, is mandatory for substances in these categories and for which no specific permissible limits have been assigned. This limit does not apply to those substances which may cause physiologic impairment at lower concentrations but for which a threshold limit has not yet been adopted.

(4) All inert or nuisance dusts, whether mineral, inorganic, or organic, not listed specifically by substance name, are covered by the particulate not otherwise regulated (PNOR) limit in Table 1: Limits for air contaminants, except: The exemption specified in subsection (3) of this section.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 93-01-067 (Order 92-15), 296-62-07509, filed 12/11/92, effective 1/15/93. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040, 49.17.050 and 49.17.240. 80-11-010 (Order 80-14), 296-62-07509, filed 8/8/80; Order 73-3, 296-62-07509, filed 5/7/73.]

WAC 296-62-07510 Total particulate. Total particulate exposure shall not exceed a permissible limit of 10 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/M^3) of air for total dust or 5 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/M^3) for respirable dust. The use of this eight-hour time-weighted-average exposure limit does not preclude the application of other applicable limits in WAC 296-62-075 through 296-62-07515. Nor does it preclude the use of WAC 296-62-060 when substances not specifically listed in Table 1 are found to require a lower limit. This section does, however, limit the combined total concentration of all particulate contaminants whether or not specifically listed in Table 1.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040, [49.17.] 050 and [49.17.]060. 97-19-014, 296-62-07510, filed 9/5/97, effective 11/5/97. Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 89-15-002 (Order 89-06), 296-62-07510, filed 7/6/89, effective 8/7/89. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040, 49.17.050 and 49.17.240. 80-11-010 (Order 80-14), 296-62-07510, filed 8/8/80.]

WAC 296-62-07511 Simple asphyxiants. "Inert" gases or vapors. A number of gases and vapors when present in high concentrations in air act primarily as simple asphyxiants without other significant physiologic effects. A PEL may not be established for each simple asphyxiant because the limiting factor is the available oxygen. The minimal oxygen content shall be 19.5 percent by volume under normal atmospheric pressure (equivalent to a partial pressure, $p0_2$ of 148 mm Hg). Atmospheres deficient in 0_2do not provide adequate warning and most simple asphyxiants are odorless. Several simple asphyxiants present an explosion hazard. Account shall be taken of this factor in limiting the concentration of the asphyxiant.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 89-15-002 (Order 89-06), 296-62-07511, filed 7/6/89, effective 8/7/89. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040, 49.17.050 and 49.17.240. 80-11-010 (Order 80-14), 296-62-07511, filed 8/8/80; Order 73-3, 296-62-07511, filed 5/7/73.]

WAC 296-62-07513 Physical factors. It is recognized that such physical factors as heat, ultraviolet and ionizing radiation, humidity, abnormal pressure and the like may place added stress on the body so that the effects from exposure at a permissible limit may be altered. Most of these stresses act adversely to increase the toxic response of a substance. Although most permissible limits have built-in safety factors to guard against adverse effects to moderate deviations from normal environments, the safety factors of most substances are not of such a magnitude as to take care of gross deviations.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.240. 80-11-010 (Order 80-14), 296-62-07513, filed 8/8/80; Order 73-3, 296-62-07513, filed 5/7/73.]